



Churchfield Community Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Chair's overview

The CCA has had another good year with membership staying stable and plenty of events and activities for members to enjoy and/or participate in. Since the AGM last November we have continued our involvement with ward forums and neighbourhood forums, and have also continued to represent the CCA in responding to alcohol licence applications.

The CCA's involvement with issues of public concern, as well as an appreciation of local successes, has shown the value of having an identifiable community group.

The great value of our association lies in bringing people together with a sense of belonging and commitment, and in providing a forum in situations where the community can act as one. Bringing this about has been hard work, but we have also held a range of social events which have been great fun and well attended. Many people have expressed their appreciation of having such a group.

We continue to see many positive developments along Churchfield Road which makes the area more attractive to potential residents and businesses, especially when they discover that we have such a strong engaged community represented by this association.

I would like to thank members old and new, especially those who serve on the Executive, for putting so much effort into improving our part of Acton. Sadly we lost a long standing and much valued member of our Executive, Nancy Duin who died this year. As she was involved in many aspects of running the CCA – the website, the email list and the e-newsletter, as well as her tremendous knowledge of the state of play generally in Acton; she is much missed.

We also said farewell to another long standing Executive member, Picot Cassidy, who has moved to Scotland. They are both missed. But we welcomed a couple of new Executive members this year – Ziggy Uszkurat who is our new membership officer, and Annie Evans. It's good to have new faces and fresh ideas. Ziggy in particular has taken over many of the functions previously run by Nancy such as the website, as well as sorting out our membership lists. We still have a couple of vacancies on the committee and would welcome anyone who wants to get more involved. If you are interested in joining our exec committee, please contact me, Chris Hurley, on actonhurleys@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is slightly up this year thanks to a couple of recruitment exercises we carried out at Derwentwater School and Acton Market. We have a total of 198 households but as some are joint memberships the actual number of members is 221. This includes individuals, households and businesses in Churchfield Road. If your neighbour is not yet a member why not ask them to join? They can do so online here: <http://www.churchfield.org/how-to-join>

CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Air Pollution

After a member contacted us to ask us to take up the issue of cars idling at Acton Central level crossing we contacted the Council in April 2017. Others have been in touch with them too, including parents of children at Ark Priory School. Money has been found from the Ward Forum budget for 2017/18 and new electronic flashing signs were installed in late September 2018. The signs are better but not enough as some drivers are still letting their engines idle while waiting at the crossing.

This concerns us all. Levels of air pollution are high in London and pollution from traffic is a major cause of this. It's not just pedestrians who suffer but studies show air pollution levels are broadly the same inside and outside of vehicles and can be worse for drivers stuck in queues. It's also illegal to leave an engine running while stopped at lights or a level crossing and with modern cars, switching off, does not affect their running. We think many drivers just don't think about switching off but with more information and encouragement would do so. We will be planning some leafletting in the next few months to reinforce the message that switching off is good for all.

Licensing Scrutiny

We took part in the Council's Scrutiny of Licensing in the borough by giving oral evidence and a written submission to the Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 15th February.

The issues we raised, based on five years of monitoring and making representations, covered:

- *Street drinking problems* - the need both for enforcement action and help for street drinkers to overcome problems.

- *Concern about poor knowledge and training of some personal licence holders applying for premises licences.*
- *Support for Special Policy Areas (SPA) for licensing (central Acton is an SPA) along with cumulative impact policies (put simply this sets out that we already have enough alcohol outlets and problems, and only if applicants can demonstrate measures that mean they won't add to problems will licenses be granted)*
- *Support for Dispersal/Exclusion zones – these have been used successfully in Ealing in the past by the Police but we understand that the government has now withdrawn these powers.*
- *Welcoming Council guidance on “core hours” for licensing.*
- *Support for thresholds on the sale of cheap high-strength beers and ciders (the favourite tippie of street drinkers) – we regularly ask for a licence condition limiting sales of cheap beers and ciders to a max of 5.5% ABV.*
- *Support for restriction of sales of single cans – only packs to be sold – same reason as above.*
- *Asking for the Council to lobby with others to enable the community to be consulted about Temporary Event Notices; to issue good practice guidance; and to provide resources for enforcement.*
- *Raising the issue of the lack of regulation in relation to Shisha bars and local concerns about cases of noise, pollution and other activities.*

Licence applications

We continued this year to monitor alcohol and late night food licence applications in the town centre, making representations to the Council, when appropriate, to encourage responsible licensing practices and reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (ASB). Maureen Colledge continues to lead for the CCA, liaising with local licensing officers and the Metropolitan Police when appropriate and working with Ann Brennan of the Mill Hill Park Residents Association (MHPRA) who monitors applications and makes representations for the MHPRA.

Since last November we made two representations – both Off Licences in Horn Lane. In one case the licence was granted with conditions and in the other, which was a review of the licence due to infringements, the licence was revoked.

Other campaigns

Closure of Acton Main Post Office - in partnership with rev Nick Jones and organised by Dr.Rupa Huq our MP, we supported a demonstration about the closure of the main Post Office and additionally petitioned members of the public while doing a recruitment stall at Acton Market.

Sadly the Post office is now closed. We are aware that the post office is a major link for many local residents and the closure will be detrimental to their daily lives.

We support efforts to continue putting pressure on Royal Mail to reopen the post office in a suitable central Acton location.

Acton Central ticket office closure - we encouraged members and the public to write objecting to the proposed closure of all London Overground ticket offices, including Acton Central station. Station Staff are very much part of our community and daily lives. Apart from the risk to station staff jobs, there is a major safety issue involved in this debate. Station staff are vital to our safety when using transport and ticket office staff offer valuable advice and assistance to the public.

We understand that due to the overwhelming response to the consultation, closure plans have been put on hold by London TravelWatch. However this does not mean the threat is over. We will keep you updated.

Acton Central station book swap

The Acton Central station book swap has now been running for six years! It continues to provide the community with a large numbers of many different varieties of books for both adults and children. Mostly the book swap has been successful and trouble-free, but we do need a steady supply so please continue to donate any books you have spare, and many thanks to those who already donate.

COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to maintain the large notice board outside Acton Central station. Members can request that notices be put up for community events such as concerts, walks, charity events, etc. There is a contact phone number on the board. Please allow a few days for us to put up a notice.

Newsletter

The Churchfield Community Association Newsletter continues to thrive and has been published twice this year. Special thanks go to Linda Taylor for her continuing role as Newsletter Editor. We know she is very grateful to those who help in its production by suggesting items and writing features, and to those who take photographs. Contributions to the newsletter and ideas for articles are always welcome.

Thanks to Picot and now to Ziggy for producing the address labels for recipients and to Susanne for organising distribution, as well as to those who help with delivery.

Online newsletter and email list

The online newsletter used to be produced by Nancy and was issued about every six weeks or so. We are struggling to get this going again, so if anyone has any expertise in this area and would be willing to help please let me know. It used to contain time-sensitive information about CCA events and other activities. Members are automatically subscribed to this when they join, but can easily unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of each newsletter.

Unlike the newsletter, which is one-way only, members can use our email list to communicate with each other. Now known as the 'CCA email group', about three-quarters of our membership are on this list. Please use 'cca.email.group@cca.simplelists.com' as the address to email CCA members en masse if you are looking for a builder, to advertise an event or anything else (within reason of course!).

Please remember to notify us if your email address changes.

Social media

The CCA has a 'public' **Facebook** page, which now has 223 members and links to many other local groups.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

During the past year, as in previous years, the CCA has arranged a variety of enjoyable social events. CCA social events are open to CCA members and their friends, as well as to people considering joining the CCA. The aim is to provide opportunities for people to meet others who live and/or work in our neighbourhood.

In December 2017, our annual **CCA Christmas Party** was again held at the Rocket pub in Churchfield Road, in the restaurant area. Some 25 people attended. In particular our thanks go to Paul and Philippe for creating a fun seasonal quiz for the occasion.

On a Wednesday evening in June 2018, we held our annual **CCA Putting in the Park** event, a fun 'after-work' get-together at Acton Park's Putt in the Park. We grouped into several teams, each consisting of three or four people, and had a fun time, putting our way round the 15-hole course. Those who wanted to eat together afterwards made their way to the Tarantella Italian restaurant, on Acton High Street, for supper.

The annual **CCA Garden Party** was held on a warm Friday evening in early July 2018. For the third year running, this was generously hosted by Sarah and Rich in their glorious Cumberland Park garden, and our thanks go to them both. It was a bring-and-share event, with everyone bringing contributions of food and drink, which helped ensure a relaxed atmosphere. By way of a thank you to our hosts, a collection was again arranged in aid of The UK Sepsis Trust, which Sarah and Rich are involved with.

Our fun **CCA Supper Quizzes**, created and run by Paul Talbot and Philippe Bruyer, were again held several times during the year, at L'Oriental restaurant on Churchfield Road. Our thanks go to Tony and Paola who prepare delicious Lebanese mezze food and serve this at our tables. And our thanks also to Paul and Philippe for creating such a wide variety of general knowledge quiz rounds and brain-teasing puzzle sheets, which ensure that everyone feels included. Like all our other social events, these quiz evenings offer a friendly and relaxed way to meet new and existing CCA members.

If you haven't already attended any of our CCA social events, please do consider trying them out – you'll be warmly welcomed! And if you have any ideas for future social events – please let us know.

Compiled by CCA Chair Chris Hurley – thanks to Exec members for your contributions